



Leaving No One Behind

What *Leaving No One Behind* means to CARE

Sustainable Development Goal 6 calls for clean water and sanitation for all. Ensuring that no one is left behind requires that all people – including women and girls, the elderly, marginalized, people with disabilities and youth have sustainable and equitable access to water and sanitation that meet their specific needs. CARE’s Water+¹ programs practice the commitment to women’s empowerment and addressing the underlying causes of gender inequality that are central to our mission. They do this by strengthening the participation and leadership of women and girls in water and sanitation service delivery by ensuring that women and girls are consulted at every stage of program design and implementation, that robust and responsive feedback mechanisms are in place, and that our programs are monitoring impact on women and girls. Many of CARE’s water+ programs are also working to expand social inclusion, and practice the same commitments to other vulnerable people, including marginalized ethnic groups, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

“We include women in our programs not *just* because they are the most affected by poor WASH, but because they are smart, they have good ideas, and they are half of society.” Kelly Alexander, US State Department’s World Water Day Event, March 21 2019

India

In India, CARE is working with partners in the Water + Women Alliance to improve and sustain the health and well-being of 200,000 women and their households touched by the apparel value chain. CARE helps to enhance knowledge, life skills, and capacities of women in fabric mill and cotton farming communities through the Gap, Inc. Personal Advancement and Career Enhancement (P.A.C.E.) program. CARE helped to modify P.A.C.E. for the rural Indian context, incorporating a water sanitation and hygiene (WASH) module and WASH financing module so that women can improve their access to and adoption of WASH practices. CARE also helps to address structural barriers for women including confronting household and gender norms that

1. Water+ is CARE’s term for an approach that encompasses our traditional work with drinking water provision, sanitation, and hygiene along with productive uses of water and ecologically sustainable water-resource management.

influence women's access to WASH, ensure platforms for women to voice demands, connect women to WASH service providers, and support women's organizations that hold service providers accountable for quality, and equity.

Ecuador

The Adaptation to Climate Change for Andean Populations (ACCRES) project in Ecuador works specifically with the often marginalized Andean populations in rural communities to reduce negative impacts of climate variability locally. In the ACCRES program, CARE supports the formation of Local Research Committees comprised of female and male farmers interested in monitoring their local water sources. The approaches used are interactive and inclusive, recognizing that most of the members have limited formal education or literacy. Through these committees, farmers have been able to make community action plans to adapt to changes in climate—and specifically, differences in quantity and quality of water available at traditional sources.

Ethiopia

CARE Ethiopia's Water for Food Security, Women's Empowerment and Environmental Protection (SWEEP) project is framed around women's empowerment outcomes. CARE Ethiopia partnered with Bridging the Gap, an inclusion specialist organization. WASH+ staff at CARE Ethiopia and government partners took part in a disability inclusion and sensitization training. As an outcome of the training, CARE reviewed and developed policies on identifying persons with disabilities, how to collect disability data, capacity building on inclusion among WASH stakeholders, reviewing implementation and monitoring tools for disability inclusion, and improved targeting methods for people with disabilities such as membership in natural resource management, WASH, or other community committees. Staff and government officials also attended a training on how to make WASH facilities more inclusive.

Madagascar

As a foundation to the Rural Access to New Opportunities in Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (RANO-WASH) program, CARE Madagascar conducted a gender analysis for each intervention region to explore gender dynamics linked to WASH. CARE gender advisors then developed a gender mainstreaming strategy to guide how to integrate gender into intervention activities and community mobilization methods. The strategy included gender-specific tools for community-led total sanitation (CLTS)—a widespread behavior change approach to end open defecation—and

how to integrate gender into other WASH-related behavior change and promotion activities. The RANO-WASH project seeks to improve women's participation in the governance and decision-making processes for WASH services in their communities, including development of an accountability mechanism, and engagement in local dialogue and community planning. This is critical for ensuring that decisions are based on their views as well, not just those of the most powerful and vocal. The RANO-WASH project established gender focal points across partners and stakeholders so that efforts of gender transformative approaches do not lie exclusively with the gender advisor but are integrated into multiple layers in the project area.

Vanuatu

In Vanuatu, CARE, in partnership with an independent Disability Advisor, conducted a gender, disability, social inclusion, political, and economic analysis of WASH. This included two consultation workshops with NGO and government partners. Another output of the analysis was a Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) roundtable with men, women—with and without physical disabilities—and MHM product providers. CARE is also drafting a gender and disability training package as an informative resource for staff and partners within the project.

Next Steps

The examples in this document provide a brief snapshot of how CARE's water+ programs across the globe are working towards gender equity and social inclusion, and the commitment to leaving no one behind. Many of our water+ programs embody this commitment, and some of this work is transformative, but we must continue to work each day to ensure that our water+ programs plan, implement, and monitor to better serve all community members.

CARE is committed to sustainable WASH—and its impacts on health, education, economies, security, and well-being—for everyone. Working with women and vulnerable groups (including marginalized, people with disabilities, minorities, and youth) should be a priority, not a box that we check. This means that, wherever possible, CARE's water+ programs must ensure that voice, power, and decision-making opportunities are available to those traditionally excluded from such processes. It also means that our programs must be committed to conducting and responding to gender, disability, and inclusion analyses; that we consult and seek feedback from all parts of the community; and that we meaningfully measure impact on everyone.

For more information:

Kelly Alexander

Senior Learning and Influencing Advisor

kelly.alexander@care.org

<http://www.care.org/water>

CARE USA

151 Ellis Street

Atlanta, GA 30303

www.care.org

